

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A tool for forming a surface, comprising:

a) a stamp;

5 b) a forming element provided on the stamp, the forming element including an interior and an exterior, the interior including a forming surface configured for forming a semi-solid material into a predetermined shape;

10 c) a pressure-relief element provided adjacent the forming element, the pressure-relief element being sized and configured for causing air to enter and exit the interior of the forming element, in use, so that the predetermined shape is obtained when the stamp is used and the forming element is forming a semi-solid material into the predetermined shape.

2. A tool as in Claim 1, wherein:

15 a) the pressure-relief element includes a hole provided in the stamp, the hole extending between the interior and the exterior.

3. A tool as in Claim 1, wherein:

20 a) the pressure-relief element includes a pressure-equalizing element, the pressure-equalizing element being configured for equalizing the pressure between the interior and the exterior.

4. A tool as in Claim 1, wherein:

a) the forming element includes a truncated dome.

5. A tool as in Claim 1, wherein:

a) the forming element includes a truncated cone.

5 6. A tool as in Claim 2, wherein:

a) the forming element includes a series of truncated
domes arranged in aligned columns.

7. A tool as in Claim 1, wherein:

10 a) the forming element includes a series of truncated
domes aligned in columns.

8. A tool as in Claim 7, wherein:

a) the aligned columns are spaced apart at a width
wider than a width of a conventional wheelchair tire.

15 9. A method of forming a detectable warning surface,
comprising:

a) providing an unhardened, hardenable, semi-solid
material on a surface;

a) providing a tool for forming a surface, the tool
including:

20 i) a stamp;

ii) a forming element provided on the stamp,

the forming element including an interior and an exterior, the interior including a forming surface configured for forming a semi-solid material into a predetermined shape; and

iii) a pressure-relief element provided adjacent the forming element, the pressure-relief element being sized and configured for causing air to enter and exit the interior of the forming element, in use, so that the predetermined shape is obtained when the stamp is used and the forming element is forming a semi-solid material into the predetermined shape; and

c) pressing the forming tool sufficiently into the unhardened semi-solid material so that the forming element forms the semi-solid material into the predetermined shape.

10. A method as in Claim 9, wherein:

a) the predetermined shape includes a series of truncated domes aligned in columns.

11. A method as in Claim 10, wherein:

a) the aligned columns are spaced apart at a width wider than a width of a conventional wheelchair tire.

12. A method as in Claim 9, wherein:

5 a) the pressure-relief element includes a hole provided in the stamp, the hole extending between the interior and the exterior.

13. A method as in Claim 9, wherein:

a) the forming element includes a truncated dome.

10 14. A method as in Claim 9, wherein:

a) the forming element includes a truncated cone.

15. A method as in Claim 12, wherein:

a) the forming element includes a series of truncated domes arranged in aligned columns.

15 16. A method as in Claim 9, further including the step of:

a) determining if any excess material extends beyond the predetermined shape; and

b) removing any excess material extending beyond the predetermined shape.

17. A method as in Claim 16, further including the step of:

a) allowing the semi-solid material to harden.

18. A method as in Claim 9, further including the step of:

a) allowing the semi-solid material to at least

5 partially harden;

b) determining if any excess partially hardened material has been formed into a tip extending beyond the predetermined shape; and

c) removing the tip, if any.